



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Public Health & Safety Division ♦ Communicable Disease Control & Prevention Bureau

Immunization Program ♦ PO Box 202951 ♦ 1400 Broadway ♦ Helena, MT 59620-2951

Phone: (406) 444-5580 ♦ Fax: (406) 444-2920

Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper, Director

February 26, 2013

To: All VFC Providers

From: Montana Immunization Program

Re: VFC Hot Topics, Influenza Vaccine, Pentacel[®], Data Loggers, VFC Provider Handbook, Reconciliation in imMTrax, MenHibrix[®] and Medicaid Provider Notice

VFC Monthly Hot Topics

As a reminder we will be holding monthly VFC Hot Topics webinars on the last Tuesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. and the last Thursday of the month at 8:00 a.m. We will be covering selected topics related to the VFC Program with time for questions at the end. There is only one presentation per a month with two opportunities to participate. You can find the schedule and access information on our new VFC Training and Resource page at www.immunization.mt.gov, where we will also post recordings of past presentations.

There is still time to participate in the last VFC Hot Topics webinar for February, which is tomorrow, February 28 at 8:00 a.m. We will be covering the new requirements in the VFC Program for 2013. Please see our VFC Training and Resource page for details.

Influenza Vaccine Update

We currently have Fluzone[®] 0.5ml, FluMist[®], and Fluarix[®] 0.5ml presentations still available. To request additional doses, please contact Katie Grady-Selby at kgrady@mt.gov or 444-1613.

Pentacel[®]

Due to the Pentacel[®] shortage, we may still have to allocate orders for the month of March. As a reminder, if you are going to order Pentacel[®] you will need to have your order form to the Immunization Program by the **10th of each month.** We don't anticipate this shortage lasting too much longer, and will notify providers when we have an adequate supply and can stop allocating orders.

New Data Loggers

Once again this year the Immunization Program is able to replace your old data loggers with new calibrated devices. This year the new data loggers comply with updated vaccine storage and handling guidance from the CDC.

All providers will be receiving a Data Logger Care Package mid-March that will contain your new devices, a detailed instruction manual, an envelope for returning your old devices, and a print copy of the updated VFC Provider Handbook (see below). Please note that you must return your old devices, and the return envelope is NOT pre-paid. When installing your new data loggers please follow the instructions closely and submit the requested information to the Immunization Program by the deadline or your April vaccine order may be held.

New VFC Requirements and Updated VFC Provider Handbook

Due to updated guidance from the CDC, there are several new requirements in the Montana VFC Program for 2013. We've updated our VFC Provider Handbook to reflect these changes and a paper copy will be included in your Data Logger Care Package in March. It will also be posted to our website. A summary of the updates is included in the Appendix, and updated sections in the document are highlighted in yellow. The new requirements take effect when you receive your paper copy in the mail.

For an overview of the new requirements please attend our VFC Hot Topics webinar scheduled for Thursday, February 28 at 8:00AM. See our VFC Training and Resource webpage at www.immunization.mt.gov for details.

MenHibrix® in the VFC Program

MenHibrix® is a new combination vaccine manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) that is indicated for active immunization to prevent invasive disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroups C and Y and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) passed a VFC resolution in October 2012, including this vaccine in the VFC Program for immunizing certain high-risk children aged 2 through 18 months. The entire VFC Resolution can be found here:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/downloads/resolutions/1012-2-mening-mcv.pdf>

Although this vaccine is approved for use in the VFC Program, it is currently unavailable because it is not on a federal purchase contract. The contract is scheduled to be in place sometime in April. We will notify providers and update our order form when this vaccine is available.

Reconciliation in imMTrax

As a reminder, VFC providers are required to enter cold chain data and reconcile vaccine inventory each month regardless of whether they order vaccine. If you received a notice from us that you are behind on cold chain and reconciliation, please login to imMTrax and update your information as soon as possible or your facility may be inactivated from the VFC Program.

Medicaid Provider Notice on VFC Vaccine Administration Fee

As most of you know, the regional cap for the VFC vaccine administration fee was increased to \$21.32 as of January 1, 2013. We announced this in December, but at that time were unaware of other changes to vaccine-related reimbursements in the Medicaid program. Many of you contacted our office for clarification.

We're happy to announce that the state Medicaid office has issued a Provider Notice explaining the new vaccine administration fee reimbursement schedule. It can be found here:

http://medicaidprovider.hhs.mt.gov/pdf/provider_notices/2013/vaccineadministrations02212013.pdf

If you have any questions about Medicaid reimbursement, please contact Bob Wallace at 406-444-5778 or bwallace@mt.gov.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please contact the Immunization Program at 406-444-5580 or hhsiz@mt.gov.

Thank you for taking the time to read this VFC update and we hope to see everyone at one of the Regional Workshops!

Katie Grady-Selby

VFC Quality Specialist

DPHHS-Immunization Section

444-1613